



It began
with a
single page
marriage
registration...

IT'S
NOT EVEN
BEEN A YEAR
SINCE YOU
AND DAD
DIVORCED!!

DYUUKO-SAN,
WHY DO YOU
WANT TO GET
MARRIED
AGAIN?



IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED
IF I'VE
FALLEN
IN LOVE.

FORGET
ABOUT
THE
PAST.



BE
REASON-
ABLE.

ISN'T
THIS GUY
YOUNGER
THAN YOU?
WHAT IF HE
CHEATS AND
LEAVES
YOU?

BUT A
MOTHER'S
DUTY...?!

NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT!
IF HE
MARRIES A
WOMAN, I
GUARANTEE
HE'LL LEAVE!!

NO, I
MOMENT,
PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME.
HE'S A
GOOD
PERSON.



IS
(OR WAS)
GAY.

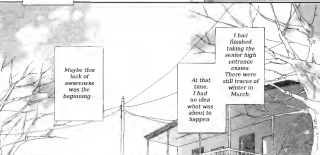
Ques

BECAUSE
THAT
GUY...

unexpectedly
announced
her second
marriage.



My mother,
Matsunaga
Ryoko
(age 35)



Maybe this
lack of
awareness
was the
beginning.

At that
time,
I had
no idea
what was
about to
happen.

I had
finished
taking the
senior high
entrance
exams.
There were
still traces of
winter in
March.

*I
think
about*

*love,
yearning,
intimacy.*

*I'm on
that vague
border...*

JU-ROKU

16

SHINOBU



I'M
GOING
OUT WITH
RYOIKO-SAN.
I'M KOUNO.

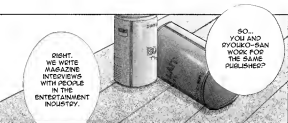
NICE
TO
MEET
YOU.



HUHP

TODAY

I'D LIKE
TO TALK
TO YOU.



RIGHT.
WE WRITE
MAGAZINE
INTERVIEWS
WITH PEOPLE
IN THE
ENTERTAINMENT
INDUSTRY.

SO...
YOU AND
GYOUKO-SAN
WORK FOR
THE SAME
PUBLISHER?



YAY, YAY!
I LOVE
TO HAVE
MORE
TIME...

YEAH, YEAH...
GYOUKO-SAN
SETS THE
POPULAR
STARS.



I DO
THE
INTERVIEWS.

REALLY?
SO YOU
MEET THE
CELEBRITIES
IN PERSON?



GYOUKO-SAN
IS AN
INTERESTING
PERSON.

TO SAY
IF I
HADN'T
A GOOD
PERSON

I UNDERSTAND
WHAT THE
ENTERTAINMENT
BUSINESS IS LIKE
SO I'M NOT
DECEIVED BY
SUPER-
STARITIES

I
KNOW
THAT
VERY
WELL.

YEAH,
GYOUKO-SAN
SETS UP THE
INTERVIEWS.

SHE'S
THE ONE
IN CHARGE,
RIGHT?

RYOUDO-SAN
LEGS TO TALK,
SO THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY THEY
GET ALONG

SO...
SINCE THEN,
I HAVEN'T
MET ANY
FRIENDS
AT SCHOOL

LET'S SEE.
AFTER THE
DIVORCE,
I BECAME
PARTICULAR
ABOUT
MAKING
FRIENDS.

FOR
RYOUDO-SAN,
CONVERSATION
IS EASY

YOU SEEM
LIKE A FRIEND
SO I'LL TELL
YOU ABOUT
MYSELF.

HE'S AN
INTERVIEWER,
AFTER ALL

IT'S
NOT VERY
EASY TO
SHARE MY
FEELINGS

AND
THESE
SHOULD'NT
BE ANY
LIMITS IN
FRIENDSHIP,
RIGHT?

ANYWAY,
HOW MANY
GOOD GUYS
ARE THERE
IN THIS
AREA?

YOU
REALLY
BELIEVE
THAT?

AH...
I GET IT.
FRIENDSHIP
IS DIFFICULT
FOR YOU...

IS HE
MANIPULATING
MY
FEELINGS...?

OH,
SORRY.
DO YOU
MIND IF I
SMOKE?

GO
AHEAD.



IS
EASY.

BUT
FALLING
IN
LOVE...



Choke

YOU
LIKE
GUYS,
HUH?



THOSE
WORDS
WERE
SIGNIFICANT...



OH!
SORRY,
IT'S JUST...
I'M THINKING
ABOUT
RYUICHO-SAN...

SO...

YET FALL
DEEPLY
IN LOVE.*

"I WANT TO FEEL
COMFORTABLE,
LIKE I'M WITH
A FRIEND..."

AAH...
I GET
IT.

I'M
BISexual.
I THINK
IT'S BEST
TO HAVE
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH HUMAN
BEINGS.

When I
looked into
his eyes,
his words
were easy to
understand.

IT JUST
SO HAPPENS.
I'VE NEVER
FELT THAT
WAY ABOUT
A WOMAN,
UNTIL NOW.

He's
a good
guy...

I want
to be
his
friend.



SO
IT'S TRUE,
THAT HOT GUY
IS IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
RYOUKO-SAN.

*I like
you,
Kouno-san.*

KOUNO-SAN.

TOO
BAD!
HE'S
TAKEN.

WHAT
A
WASTE!

HUH...?
YOU'RE
KIDDING!

HE'S
SO
COOL!

BUT...
I'M GLAD,
RYOUKO-SAN.

YOU'RE
GOING OUT
WITH A
GOOD
PERSON.

ROVE

Ryouko
-san

You
still
look
like a
young
woman.

You've
always
stood by
me when
I was weak.

The
least
I can
do is
make
this
wish.

Please
don't let
someone
cheat on
her again.

NAOKI

I'M
GOING TO
LET YOU
KEEP THIS
MARRIAGE
CERTIFICATE,
NAOKI.

WHEN
IT'S OKAY
WITH YOU,
I'LL GET
THE SEAL.

ARE YOU
GOING TO
KOUNO-SAN'S
PLACE NEXT
WEEK?

IT'S FINE
WITH ME.
I LIKE
KOUNO-SAN.

HUH?
WHY?

YEAH,
HE'S
GONNA
LEND
ME SOME
GDS AND
VIDEOS.

HOW
YOU
FEEL
ABOUT
HER.

I REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW...

Hahaha
BILLY...
I'M NOT
FOOLED
BY OUTWARD
APPEARANCES!

Dude dude!

I TOLD
YOU,
YOU'RE
DATING
A GOOD
GUY!



I WANT
TO SEE
THROUGH
YOUR EYES,
NAOKI.



I
COULD
TELL HER,
BUT SHE'D
TAKE IT THE
WRONG
WAY...





FOR
EXAMPLE,
I CAN'T SAY
THINGS LIKE,
I'M WORRIED
THAT DYUOKO
-SAN AND
I WILL GROW
APART.

OR,
MAYBE,
ONCE I GET
TO KNOW
YOU BETTER,
I'LL LOSE
RESPECT
FOR YOU.

OR,
WHAT IF
YOU FIND
ANOTHER
LOVED (S)
SOMEDAY...
(LAUGH)



WHICH
REMINDS
ME, LET ME
WARN YOU,
ANYTHING
GOES IN
THIS FAMILY!

Ah

SO...
HERE'S
THAT BOOK.

IT'S FULL
OF MAGAZINES
AND VIDEOS
THAT KIDS
SHOULDN'T
SEE.

Gu's
supposedly
for work.

WELL...
ALL OF
THOSE THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE,
ESPECIALLY
SEPARATING
FROM YOUR
MOTHER.



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
THIRD
THING?

SO...

HEH, /
BUT I LOVE
DYUOKO-SAN
SO THAT
WILL NEVER
HAPPEN!



I WON'T.
MALE
OR
FEMALE
...

I'M
GOING
OUT WITH
RYOUKO
-SAN,
SO...

OF
COURSE,
THE ONLY
OTHER PERSON
I MIGHT LIKE...
A PERSON WHO'S
ALSO RELATED...
CANNOT BE
MY LOVER.



NOT
REALLY.
BUT YOU
SAID IT WAS
POSSIBLE,
KOUNO
-SAN.

THAT
WORRIES
YOU?
THAT I'LL
FIND A
MALE
LOVER?



I WOULD
NEVER MAKE
ADVANCES
TOWARDS A
PERSON IN
THIS ROOM.

*Suddenly,
I felt
intensely
aware...*

*Just
like
that, it
was
said...*



**INSTANTLY,
EVERYTHING
BECAME
REAL.**



It's
just that,
when you
said...

I
could
be the
one.



I
THINK
IT'S
NORMAL
TO FEEL
AWKWARD.

FINDING
YOURSELF
THE TARGET
OF SUCH
THOUGHTS

IT'S
NATURAL
TO FEEL
THAT WAY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



I'M
STARTING
TO FEEL
TENSE...

AM I
IN
TROUBLE?

I felt a
little
scared.



BUT,
KOUNO-SAN,
YOU'RE NOT
THE KIND OF
PERSON
WHO...



I CAN
ASSURE YOU
EVERYTHING
WILL BE
ABSOLUTELY
FINE
BETWEEN
US.

OF
COURSE,
I DON'T
INTEND TO
ACT ON
IT.



I don't understand anything about this guy.

I see. I...



"I don't intend to act on it."

I don't imagine his expression.

He turned away... This moment speaks for itself.. I think I see now...

Then why did he say those things in the first place?



He's not looking at me. His back



*Now...
what
am I
thinking?*



"NAOKI."

*It's
me.*

*The
third
possibility...*

*This
marriage
must be
stopped.*

*"That
I may
find
a male
lover?"*



WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO
DO?

WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO
DO?

"KOUNO
-SANT"

WH...

WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO
DO?

That was
the second
time we'd
met and
talked.
It was
the only
time...

at the
end of my
fifteenth
year...
that
I'd felt
such a
powerful
attraction

The
season
of
flower
beds
arrived



NAOKI!

In
March
of that
Spring,
the cherry
blossoms
began to
open.

And I
outgrew
my
childish
ways.



SURE.
THEY GAVE
ME A CAR
AND SAID I
COULD LEAVE
EARLY.

IS IT
OKAY TO
LEAVE
WORK?

RYOUDO
-SAN
-
I
SAID
YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
COME.



NO WAY,
NO WAY...
I WOULDN'T
MISS IT!



AND
KOUNO
-SAN...

YOU
SAID
HE'S
WORKING?

YEAH.
HE SAW
ME OFF...

BUT
WHEN I
LOOK AT
YOUR FACE
I WANT
TO GO
BACK.



This
distance



OH..

We
both know
that I'm
completely
mixed up
inside..

He's
giving
me
space..

*I want
to meet
and talk
with him
again,
to become
friends.*



*I think
I like
Kouno-san.
My feelings...*

*haven't
changed
suddenly.*

*Am I
doing
the
right
thing?*

*"Until now,
I've never
felt that
way about
a woman."*



*"I'm bisexual.
It's best to have
relationships with
human beings."*

*Ryouko-san
loves the
person
I like.*

*Ryouko-san
is loved
by the
person
I like.*



*It's
really
frustrating
that he
doesn't
feel that
way about
me...*

NAOKI

...

*Why
did
I say
I want
to see
him
again?*

THIS
WON'T
DO AT
ALL.
NAOKI

...

*Could
the three
of us have
gotten
along like
friends?*

*If things
had stayed
the same,
like the
first time
we met...*

YOU TRY
TO SEE A
PERSON'S
GOOD
POINTS
RIGHT
AWAY...

BUT
KEEPING
YOUR
THOUGHTS
TO YOURSELF
MAKES ME
WORRY.





YOU'RE
DOING
THIS
BECAUSE
YOU LOVE
US,
RIGHT?

BOTH
ME AND
KOUNO
-SAN.



HA, YOU
ANSWERED!

YOU'RE
SO CUTE!
I REALLY
LOVE YOU,
NAOKI!

HUH?



IS IT
LOVE?

COME
ON...



COULD
IT BE
LOVE?



KOUNO-SAN
IS THE WRONG
PERSON FOR
ME, RIGHT?

BUT
I CAN
SEE IT
CLEARLY.



LOOK,
YOU
WON'T
SAY IT
...



BUT
HE'S
THE
WRONG
GUY.



I THOUGHT,
HE'S A GOOD
PERSON. IF I GOT
TO KNOW HIM
BETTER, I'D
DEFINITELY
FALL IN LOVE.

Perhaps...
I want to
become
like that,
too.

It's
love
after
all.

Ryouko
-san is
smiling.

I really
envy
them.

In this
way, they
understand
each other.
These two
people...

Ha
ha

THAT'S
SOME
CONSO-
-LATION!

RYOUKO
-SAN...

I hate
to admit
it, but...

THAT'S A
CRUEL THING
TO SAY,
BUT TO
THE POINT
...

I KNEW
RYOIKO-SAN
WAS AN
INTERESTING
PERSON.

I SEE.
I'M THE
WRONG
GUY.



...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HER
FEELINGS

YOU'RE
CRUEL,
TOO,
KOUNO
-SAN.

EVEN
THOUGH I
UNDERSTAND
WHAT
SHE SAID.





THAT'S
NOT
IT.

AT FIFTEEN,
YOU'RE OLD
ENOUGH TO
BECOME AN
OBJECT OF
LOVE.



WEREN'T
YOU A LITTLE
UNFAIR TO
ME, TOO?

YOU JUST
ASSUMED A
FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD
COULDN'T BE
YOUR PARTNER.



BUT

WELL,
AT THAT
TIME, IN THAT
ROOM, WOULD
IT HAVE BEEN
OKAY FOR
ME TO DO
SOP

YOU SAID
YOU NEVER
INTENDED
TO SEE ME
THAT WAY



IF I HAD
DONE SUCH
A THING,
WOULDN'T
YOU HAVE
BEEN
WOORIED
ALL THE
TIME?

I
SAID
THAT
BECAUSE



I THINK
I LIKE
YOU
A LOT,
NAOKI.

BUT

I
THOUGHT,
WHAT IF IT
HAPPENED
...?

AND
WHAT
WOULD
I DO? I
COULDN'T
ESCAPE IT.
I...

IT'S
OKAY.
I'M
HAPPY.

I CAN
DO THIS...
AND I CAN
SEE
YOU AGAIN.





"Nando."



I
CONNECT
WITH YOU
LIKE A
FRIEND.

I'VE
FALLEN
IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
AND YET

111



WE'VE
MADE THAT
KIND OF
RELATIONSHIP,
I THINK.



HEY, NAOKI!
WHAT DO YOU
WANT FOR
THE OPENING
CEREMONY?

A SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT
SHOULD GET
SOMETHING
EXPENSIVE,
RIGHT?

IT'S
OKAY. WE'VE
TWO GROWN
UP PEOPLE
HERE. WE'LL
GIVE YOU
WHATEVER
YOU SAY...

*You're
certainly
very special
to me,
Naoki.*



IN
THAT
CASE...



I
WANT A
CONGRATULATORY
KISS!



IT'S
TOO
SOON

OH!



The
flowers
continued
to change
colors...

and I still
didn't know
what the
seasons had
in store...

Very
soon,
I turned
sixteen,
and Spring
arrived

"Sixteen" ("Juroku")
by Yamagata Satomi,
from the manga
Kiss, Kiss, Kiss,
Miu Comics DX, 2003.

Scanner: presencedear
Editor: wondermilky
Translator: presencedear